

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Emergency Medical System Management

**Policy
Number**

K-12

Page

1 of 2

Purpose

To define and establish a policy which identifies the role and responsibility of the Board of Supervisors in supporting the Emergency Medical Services Program for San Diego County.

Background

Before January 1, 1981, the Board of Supervisors had adopted no general policy concerning the County's role and responsibility for planning, implementing or evaluating a Regional Emergency Medical Services System (EMS). However, the Board did provide funding for specific components of the EMS System, as well as the staff necessary to provide system development and coordination. On January 1, 1981, Senate Bill 125 (Section 1797-1799 of the Health and Safety Code) established specific County responsibility for planning, implementing and evaluating a Regional Emergency Medical Services System for the County.

The County of San Diego has the responsibility for regulating the Emergency Medical Services System and the authority necessary to carry out that responsibility. In addition to the role of coordinator, the County is charged directly with the responsibility for approving all training programs, and certifying and recertifying all prehospital personnel. Funding of all other components of the EMS system is and should continue to be, shared by appropriate local, non-County governments and the private sector.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The County has responsibility for planning, implementing, developing standards and evaluating a Regional Emergency Medical Services System to provide emergency medical services and provide the necessary staff to coordinate these activities.
2. The Health and Human Services Agency is hereby designated the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS) and shall have the responsibility for developing an emergency medical services program for the County of San Diego, including but not limited to operational policies, procedures and protocols to ensure an effective and efficient EMS system.
3. The County will own, operate, maintain and upgrade a regional communications system for emergency medical services, establish standards for communications

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K-12

Page

2 of 2

system equipment, and issue policies regarding the-use of that equipment.

4. The Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, shall review and recommend a reasonable fee schedule to the Board of Supervisors to recover the cost of certifying and recertifying EMT-1'S, EMT-P'S, and MICN'S.
5. The County shall use its best efforts to maximize the level of services, by authorizing advanced skill emergency medical service programs to include:
 - a. Public Safety Defibrillation (PS-D), Countywide;
 - b. Esophageal Tracheal Airway Device (ETAD), for Emergency Medical Technicians, Countywide;
 - c. Alternate Configuration Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (EMT-P) Ambulance Crews in low population density areas; and
 - d. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Air Medical Rescue Services in low population density areas.
6. The County will designate specialty care centers for the treatment of victims of critical illnesses or injury and shall administer through the Health and Human Services Agency a system to ensure the quality, consistency and availability of these services.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-07.

Board Action

4-13-82 (7)
12-4-84 (30)
8-16-88 (6)
12-12-89 (49)
3-27-90 (47)
8-3-99 (7)
3-23-04 (4)

CAO Reference

1 Health and Human Services Agency